Numb. 5915

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday December 24. to Tuesday December 27. 1720.

Madrid, December 16.

DON Joseph de Cordova y Alagon, Colonel of the Regiment of Majorca, having been dispatched Expres from Ceuta by the Marques de Lede, arrived at this Court late last Night, and being immediately introduced to their Catholick Majesties, gave them an Account, That the Moors having by several Reinforcements increased their Army to 12000 Horse and 24000 Foot, judged themselves strong enough to force the Lines which the Marquess de Lede had caused to be made for the Security of his Camp. Accordingly on the 8th Instant they advanced in View of our Army, and keeping out of the Reach of our Cannon made divers Motions in order to choose the propereſt Ground for marching up to the Attack. On the 9th in the Morning they came on in four Columns, three of Foot and one of Horse, from the Road of Tangier; their Horse turned from that Road to their Left towards the Shore, and their Foot drew into a hollow Way just before our Camp. The Marquess de Lede ordered all his Horse to move out, and post themselves in the best manner they could from our Right to the Front of our Centre, directing them to retire from the Right towards our Centre as the Enemy's Horse should advance, to the End the Moors seeing them draw off might be encouraged to charge them, and thereby expose themselves to the Fire of our Line; which had the Success he proposed. Some Parties of our Horse, which were furthest off on our Right, and were commanded by Brigadier Don Vincente Fuenbuena, Collonel of the Prince's Regiment of Horse, were charged with such Vigour by the Moors, that though they were assisted by the Fire of the Spanish Guards, they could not without great Difficulty make their Retreat; in doing which Brigadier Fuenbuena was dangerously wounded, and some of the Dragoons and Light-Horse were also wounded. At the same time the Moors attacked a small Guard posted in a Cassine before a Half-Moon that covered our Centre; after some Resistance that Guard retired, and the Moors entring the Cassine set up their Colours there, and advanced with great Resolution to the Ditch of our Half-Moon, which was defended by 13 Companies of Grenadiers, who received them with so terrible a Fire that they made a great Slaughter among them; the Moors however extending themselves upon the sloping Ground before the Ditch, continued their Fire against the Half-Moon and against the Centre of our Line. Our Horse having retired within the Line, the Moorish Cavalry advanced with so much Fury on our Right that they exposed themselves to the Fire of the Spanish and Walloon Guards which defended the Right of our Line towards the Sea. The Moors, both Horse and Foot, kept firing continually, our Artillery being of no Service against them, because the Ground was low on which they fought: However, afterwards, four of the Cannon in our Centre being pointed to take the Moorish Horse in Flank, did great Execution among them. The Fire on both Sides was so vigorous, that there was not a moment's Intermission from Eight in the Morning when it began, till half an Hour after Eleven, when the Moors drew off; during which time our Men were five several times supplied with Ammunition, notwithstanding thirty Charges were at first distributed to every Foot Soldier. The Moors retired by the same Way they came, with the Loss, as was judged, of between 5 and 6000 Men; among them a great Number of Alcaydes and Officers. The killed and wounded on our Side were but few, and none of Note except Major General Don Francisco de Eboli who commanded our Centre, and Brigadier Fuenbuena: Most of the General Officers received Contusions, and the Marquess de Lede one in his Right Arm which was very painful to him. The Marquess says in his Letter to the King, That the Moorish Foot made their Attack on his Lines, with as great Firmness and good Order as any European Troops could have done; and commends highly the cheerful and resolute Behaviour of his Majesty's Forces.

Paris, Jan. 1. On the 29th past in the Afternoon, the Duke Regent accompanied by the Duke of Chartres, the Duke of Bourbon, the Duke of Vendome, the Dukes de la Force and d'Antin, and several other Persons of Distinction, went to the Bank to assist at the Assembly appointed to be held there by the chief Proprietors of the Actions of the India Company. His Royal Highness opened that Assembly with a short Speech, setting forth the Necessity there was for taking just Measures for the Support of the Company: Whereupon several Propositions were made for procuring them some Relief, the chief of which was, that since the Company could not make good their Engagements to the King with Relation to the Sums they had promised, that the General Farms, the Profits of the Mint, &c. should be taken from them, upon Condition that his Majesty took upon him the perpetual Annuities, the Annuities for Lives, the Bank-Bills, &c. and that as the King was indebted to the Company for 160 Millions, his Majesty should yield them only the Farm of the Tabacco for four Millions per Annum, which would serve as an Interest for the said Sum. No final Resolution was then taken upon that Head, but another Assembly being appointed to be held To Morrow, it is not doubted but this Point will be carried; and as Messieurs Paris are come back hither, it is believed that the General Farms will be given to them again upon the same Foot they had them formerly. It is expected the Chancellour and the Archbishop of Cambray will assist at the Assembly of the Doctors of the Sorbonne, which is to be held this Day, and that they will endeavour to prevail with that Body to recall the 22 Doctors who were interdicted by them some time ago, and to engage them at the same time to register the Accommodation of the Bishops concerning the Affair of the Constitution. On the 30th past the King danced at the Ball, which was made for him at the Tuilleries, at which were present all the foreign Ministers, and a great Number of Persons of Distinction. An Arrêt was published this Day, to prolong the time for bringing in 150 Livres for every Action of the India Company by Way of a Loan: as likewise one for putting off the Diminution of the Species, which was to have taken Place this Day. The Current Accompts in Bank are entirely abolished by an Arrêt of the 26th past.

Last